has permitted supply of electricity and water to the pre-1993 unauthorised colonies. It has also permitted construction of road and drain in such unauthorised colonies on private land.

Operation of Metro Rail in Delhi

4940. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metro Rail is likely to commence operations during the current year;

(b) if so, to what extent Metro Rail is likely to ease the traffic on the roads;

(c) in what manner and to what extent the Ring Rail will help the Metro Rail in providing an effective transport system in Delhi; and

(d) whether Ring Rail will be further strengthened to give better linkage to Metro Rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Delhi Metro is making all efforts to commence operations in the first section (Shahdara to Tis Hazari) of Delhi Metro Phase-I Project by December, 2002.

(b) Full MRTS Phase-I Project, which is likely to be completed by September, 2005, is expected to carry 19.5 lakh passenger trips per day. To this extent it will ease traffic on roads.

(c) and (d) The augmentation of Ring Railway is possible only between Pragati Maidan Nizammudin-Safdarjung-Patel Nagar. It is not possible to augment the Ring Railway in the northern portion *i.e.* Patel Nagar-New Delhi Tilak Bridge. Therefore, proper linkage between the approved first phase of Delhi MRTS and the Ring Rail is not possible.

NCRPB is actively considering the proposal of augmentation of rail corridors including strengthening of Ring Railway to facilitate commuter travel between Delhi and NCR.